

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1-25 and 30-31 were pending in the application. Claims 1-25 and 30-31 stand rejected. In this response, claims 1, 7-9, 12-13, 19-21, 24-25, and 31 have been amended. Claims 35-37 have been added. Thus, claims 1-25, 30-31, and 35-37 remain pending. No claims have been canceled. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-8, 12-20, 24-25, and 30-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,848,410 of Walls et al. ("Walls"). In view of the forgoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-25, 30-31, and 35-37 include limitations that are not disclosed by Walls. Specifically, independent claim 1 includes limitations that multiple searches on both a local network and an external network are substantially simultaneously launched in response to a single search request from a user. A single search report is then generated based on the search results of the local and external networks. Applicant respectfully submits that these limitations are not disclosed by Walls.

Rather, Walls relates to continuously and automatically indexing and updating of the searches by a user, such that a subsequent search from the same user can be quickly conducted by looking up the indices (see, Abstract and the Summary of Walls). Walls is not related to how the search is being conducted. In contrast, the present invention as claimed relates to a search method and system that, in response to a single search request, will search both the archived electronic documents in a local network (e.g., LAN) and multiple third party search engines in an external network (e.g., Internet) in response to a single search request from the user. As a result, the user does not have to go through multiple phases (e.g., local and external) to search a document. The present invention as claimed includes a network appliance to launch such searches in response to the single search request and generate a single search report based on the search results of the local and the external networks for the security purposes.

According certain embodiments, as claimed in claim 7, the search report includes a portion of the content from the locally captured documents of the local network without revealing the associated local electronic documents to the external network.

According to certain embodiments, the search report may be generated by integrating the local search result into the external search result where the format of the search report is specified by the external search result, as claimed, for example, in claim 9. Alternatively, as claimed in claim 12, the search report is generated by the dedicated network appliance device by combining multiple external search results generated by multiple search facilities of the external network and the local search result in accordance with a format determined by the appliance device.

Therefore, for the reasons discussed above, independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Walls. Independent claims 13 and 25 include limitations similar to those discussed above. Thus, for the reasons similar to those discussed above, claims 13 and 25 are not anticipated by Walls. Given that claims 2-12, 13-24, 30-31, and 35-37 depend from one of the above independent claims, for the reasons similar to those discussed above, claims 2-12, 13-24, 30-31, and 35-37 are not anticipated by Walls. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 9 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walls in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,088,675 of MacKenty et al. ("MacKenty"). MacKenty relates to methods of auditorially representing pages of SGML data. It is respectfully submitted that MacKenty also fails to disclose or suggest the limitations set forth above. Thus, for the reasons similar to those discussed above, claims 1-25, 30-31, and 35-37 are patentable over Walls in view of MacKenty. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.


In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Date: 1/7/2004


Kevin G. Shao
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 45,095

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300